



SOUTH DEVON RAMBLERS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 16th July 2025
THE PAIGNTON CLUB, ESPLANADE, PAIGNTON TQ4 6ED

Present

Mike Wilkin
Lesley Wilkin
Dorothy Webley
Val Rose
Nicky Ward
Bob Ward
Linda Lister
Kate McCormack
Hilary Bick
Karen Howes

Signed as a true and accurate record:

.....
Mike Wilkin – Chairman

.....
Date

1. **Committee were welcomed by MW and thanks conveyed for Officers Reports.**
2. **Matters Arising from April Meeting**

KH read matters highlighted. The only matter not included in this meeting was HB's 'night walk'. HB advised that this would be unlikely to progress. KMc mentioned 'social events' and was proposing a cap on activities, ie the Somerset Steam train suggestion was proving too costly at £60pp. A £35 cap was agreed in order to remain inclusive.

3. **Reports** - Officers were asked by the Chairman if they had any queries or issues to raise at this point from their reports, to share with the Committee.
LL – Provide an update; The Ramblers basic allowance next year would be £428, calculated at £100 plus £1.10 per member @ 298 members. This would not cover annual expenditure, est £1155 and she had submitted a budget for approval of £1095. A breakdown was provided:

Expenditure	£1155
Walks Programmes -	£220
Website -	£470
Com. Meetings/AGM	£365
Admin	£100

JMHT marker discs have been purchased for £573.

34 payments for Cotswolds trip have been received, exceeding the desired minimum of 30.



4. **Leaders Training – Feedback MW**

MW conveyed the information received from Area/Ramblers regarding the new requirements for Leaders of all groups, ie Leaders must have:-

Led 12 walks over the past 3 years, or
Completed the online training module, or
Possess a recognised National Qualification

The link to the new module was sent to all members on 9th July, some Committee Members appeared not to have received it. BW will incorporate support of the module in his Leader's Training and NW has already offered to support anyone who wants it at any time. There are a few who are not happy to do it. KH reported this is the same in several other groups, Torbay and SHams and all fear losing leaders, particularly the established ones who are disinclined, or unable, to access the ICT. This will be raised at the AGM and we are feeling positive that our membership will understand. It may remove the need for formal risk assessments as they should be automatic in the leader's walk creation.

5. **Dartmoor Cattle – MW/KH**

A recent email from Tim Spray at Area was conveyed. DNP are reminding/asking Dartmoor visitors to be mindful of cattle, particularly with dogs which must be on leads but if cattle appear threatening they can be released to ensure walkers are not targeted. Cows with calves can be particularly unsettling.

6. **Area Annual Meeting – 20th September**

MW reminded all that this meeting moves around the County and this year is in Okehampton. There will be a selection of walks, a photography competition and food and drink. More details to come which must be distributed to the membership.

7. **First Aid / Hi Vis Jackets – All**

There is no formal requirement but all agreed it was sensible to take a basic supply on every walk. Leaders tend to ensure they have replenished supplies before a walk. A basic kit can be obtained cheaply. Similarly, HI-Vis jackets; a supply was purchased and possibly lie with EE. To be investigated. Leader's training should advise they are worn by leader and backmarker on roads. They too can be quite cheaply obtained. Some groups have their own, bearing group name, but it was not felt necessary for SDR. Most leaders already own one. They should be made available, or funded, on request, for a newly trained leader.

8. **Club Badges (sew-on)**

These were obtained historically at reasonable cost and the template must still exist. It was felt they were too costly to offer 'free' to membership and also that sewing them on rucksacks meant puncturing the waterproof material. It was thought unlikely that this idea would progress unless we could get a very good price.



9. Holidays Review & Update

BW felt Newquay had been a very successful mini-break, all heartily agreed that organisation was first class and the weather helped to ensure a great time enjoyed by all.

BW has been helping TS with the Cotswolds day trip which is now booked with Blakes Coaches and funded - 21st August.

The Spain trip is also booked with them, pick up details to go to travellers soon. The trip to Alhambra has been booked too, £55 pp.

2026

BW queried whether having alternate domestic/foreign trips was still a good idea, the Ramblers Worldwide holidays are rising in cost, potentially excluding many. It was felt we should continue with the domestic trip next year and possible raise with membership and review.

Main Holiday Sept '26 – BW is investigating a trip to the Peak District. Prices obtained from Mercure, Sheffield for 5 nights are very competitive. £515 for a double room, £640 single for half board. At a small extra cost we could have our own room, ie for walk planning and entertainment.

A vote was unanimous that this was very good value and BW will continue to explore for 6th September, 2026.

Mini-Break Spring 2026

BW is exploring. Information will be available in time for the AGM but currently the excellent value provided by Parkdean would allow a greater number to attend and this could be Minehead area, or Cornwall. Dates will be known before the Winter programme is produced.

10. A.O.B

Dartmoor Way - MW is working with EE to reassign his section, currently B&CS and MW & LW are covering.

GC – Has provided details of his current projects which were distributed to the Committee for interest, ie 'Janet's Trail' at Berry Head and The Brixham Heritage Railway Trail.

KH - South Hams Way – This from The Ramblers: '*A spectacular 100 mile circular walk through four very different types of scenery and terrain. The South Hams Way, is now fully signed. An official launch will take place at the start of Section 1 in Totnes on the 14th September with a ceremony at 10.30am at Borough Park, adjacent to the Pavilion Leisure Centre.*

Website www.southhamsway.org.uk It was agreed that KH would promote the event on FB and possibly our website, but it falls during our trip to Spain unfortunately. It is fully supported by Ramblers after much work by the SH Group, along with local landowners and Devon County Council.



HB - Business Cards -progressing with some templates to display. The idea was well received. HB will work on the design, adding both the SDR and Ramblers logos and having green, black and white. A strap line/logo to be devised. Overall, the cost was low, representing good value, she will confirm when ready to order via Partington Print and ensure available at the AGM.

11. MW announced that VR will sadly not be standing for Committee again, having completed the longest service of any other member. She will resign at the AGM and HB also will not be standing again as a social committee member, (but will stay on as a general Committee Member.) HB will book the usual meal at the Hare n Hounds, which now will include all Committee and partners. ***DONE – Please note Friday 28th November.***

12. **Date and time of next meeting.**

KH has booked **Weds 16th October** with the Paignton Club, BW was unable to make the original date. KH to remind all. This will focus on AGM planning. The date should allow for year end accounts to be available and holiday information from BW.

AGM – Churston Golf Club, 12th November. 6pm for 6.30 prompt start if possible.

Meeting Concluded at 8.15pm